

18 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Foy D. Kohler  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of European Affairs  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Report of Conversation with General Gehlen  
and His Advice with Respect to Briefing  
Chancellor Adenauer

1. During a meeting with Mr. James H. Critchfield and [ ] of our organization in Munich on the morning of 18 November General Reinhard Gehlen, President of the German Federal Intelligence Service (BND), advised us as follows.
2. On 16 November Gehlen met with Chancellor Adenauer and briefed the Chancellor, apparently among other subjects, on the balance of power between East and West.
3. According to Gehlen the Chancellor is not convinced that the United States holds nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union. (Gehlen says he, himself, is convinced.) Furthermore the Chancellor questions estimates citing the percentage of our strategic Air Force planes which can be expected to reach their targets in event of war. He specifically asked Gehlen whether BND estimates are based on info supplied by the U. S. Gehlen acknowledged to the Chancellor that an information exchange occurs but advised the Chancellor that the BND had independently produced an estimate which coincides with U. S. views. In this conversation Gehlen referred to an estimate that "50 percent" of planes would get

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through to targets. However Mr. Critchfield and [ ] were not positive this the actual figure he used with the Chancellor.

4. Gehlen stated that the Chancellor was not taking into account Polaris and other nuclear capabilities and that after all the Chancellor is very much a layman on military affairs. Gehlen then recommended that during the Chancellor's visit to Washington an effort be made to convince him of U. S. nuclear superiority and other matters pertinent to western military strength. Finally, Gehlen urged that the Chancellor should under no circumstances get the impression that Gehlen informed us of above or that he had made such suggestion.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS):

GORDON M. STEWART